# Superconducting Detectors for Superlight Dark Matter

#### Yonit Hochberg

**YH**, Zhao and Zurek, PRL 116 no.1, 011301 (2015) **YH**, Pyle, Zhao and Zurek, JHEP 1608, 057 (2016) **YH**, Lin and Zurek, PRD 94 no.1, 015019 (2016)



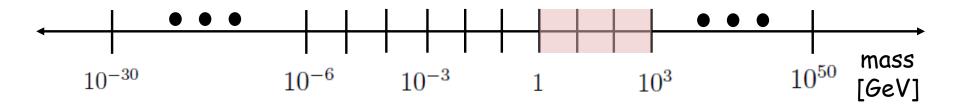


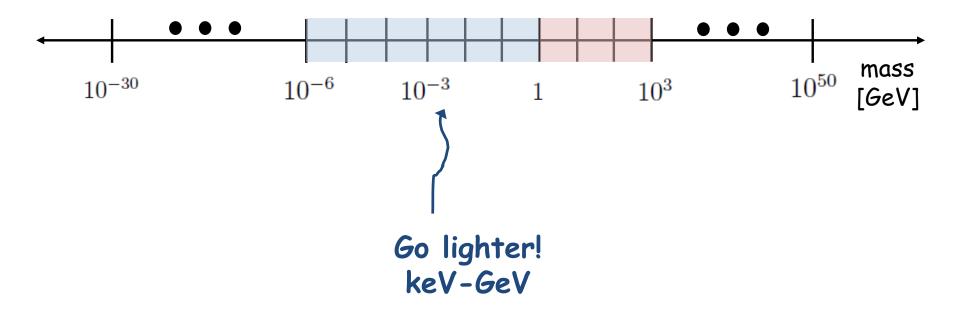
## **Outline**

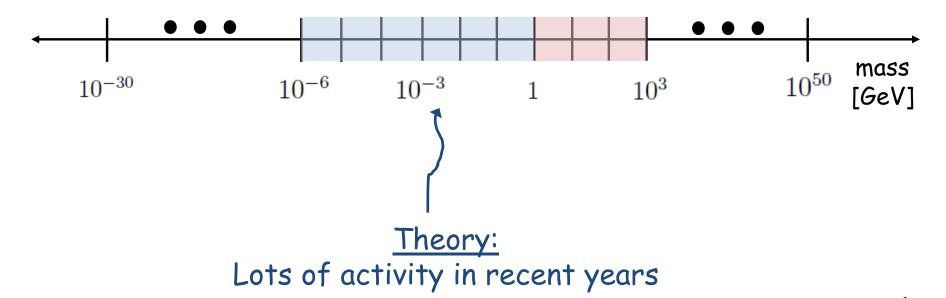
- What?
- How?
- Rates
- Results

## What?

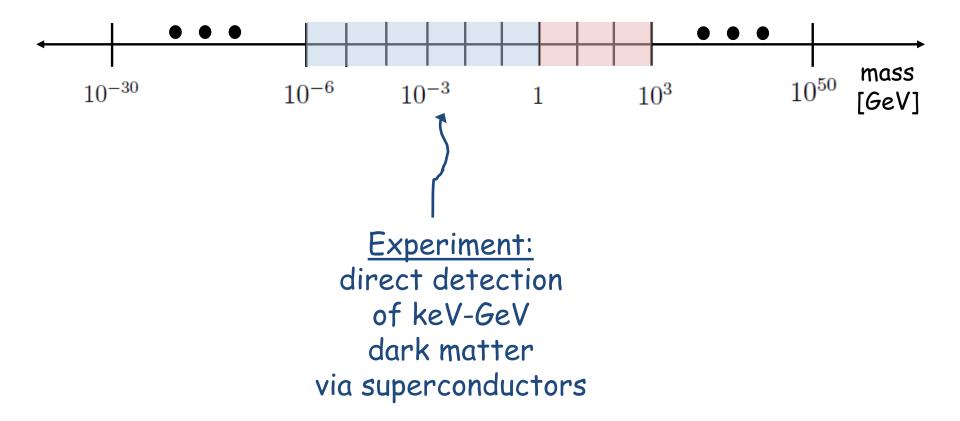
## "Beyond the WIMP lalalalalala"



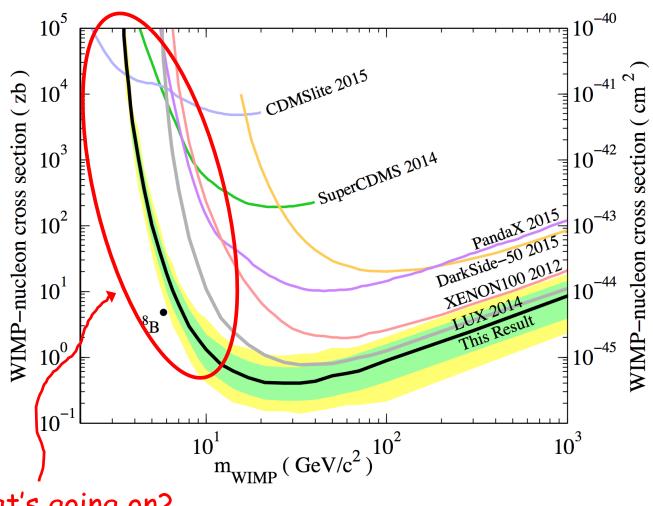




e.g.: Asymmetric dark matter [Kaplan, Luty, Zurek, 2009]
SIMPs [YH, Kuflik, Volansky, Wacker, 2014]
Forbidden dark matter [Griest, Seckel, 1991; D'Agnolo, Ruderman, 2015]

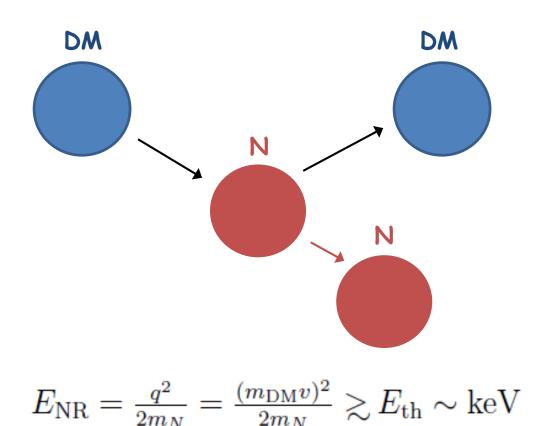


# How?

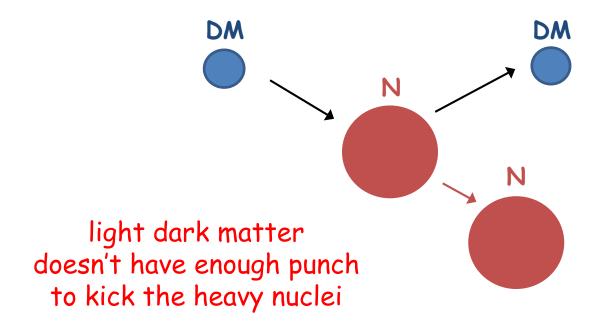


What's going on?

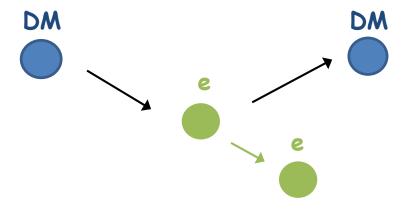
Looking at nuclear recoils: think billiard balls



Looking at nuclear recoils: think billiard balls



• Light dark matter: scatter off electrons!



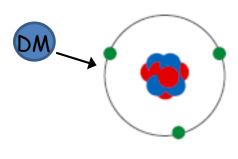
Light dark matter: scatter off electrons!

Kinetic energy available:  $E_D \sim \frac{1}{2} m_{\rm DM} v_{\rm DM}^2 \sim 10^{-6} m_{\rm DM}$ 

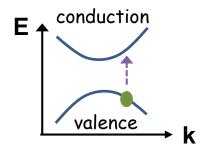
 $m_{\rm DM} \sim {\rm MeV} \Rightarrow E_D \sim {\rm eV}$ 



electron ionization, semiconductors



Xenon: ~12 eV



Ge, Si: ~eV

[Essig et al 2012; Graham et al 2012; Xenon10 data: Essig et al 2012]

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electron ionization, semiconductors

$$m_{\rm DM} \sim {\rm keV} \Rightarrow E_D \sim {\rm mili-eV}$$



Light dark matter: scatter off electrons!

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electron ionization, semiconductors

$$m_{\rm DM} \sim {\rm keV} \Rightarrow E_D \sim {\rm mili\text{-}eV}$$
 Superconductors!



[YH, Zhao and Zurek, PRL 2015; YH, Pyle, Zhao and Zurek, JHEP 2016]

## **Kinematics**

Target at rest:

$$E_D \sim \frac{q^2}{2m_T}$$

- Target = N:  $q_{\rm max} \sim 2 \mu_r v_{\rm DM} \sim 2 m_{\rm DM} v_{\rm DM}$ Even for  $\sigma_E \sim {\rm eV}$ , only  $m_{\rm DM} \sim \mathcal{O}(100'{\rm s~MeV})$  detectable
- Target = e:  $m_{\rm DM} \sim {\rm keV}$   $\Longrightarrow$   $E_D \sim 10^{-6}~{\rm eV}$

$$m_{\rm DM} \sim {
m MeV}$$
  $\Longrightarrow$   $E_D \sim {
m eV}$  [seminconductors]

Even  $\sigma_E \sim \text{meV}$  won't allow sensitivity to keV DM

## **Kinematics**

Target w/ velocity:

$$E_D \sim \left(\frac{\vec{q}^2}{2m_T} + \vec{q} \cdot \vec{v}_T\right) + \delta$$

•  $m_{\rm DM}\gg m_T$  DN

DM barely affected

$$v_T \rightarrow v_T + 2v_{\rm DM}$$

$$E_D^{\text{max}} = \frac{1}{2} m_T \left[ (v_T + 2v_{\text{DM}})^2 - v_T^2 \right]$$

•  $m_{\rm DM} \ll m_T$ 

Target can fully stop the DM

$$E_D^{\rm max} \sim \frac{1}{2} m_{\rm DM} v_{\rm DM}^2$$

$$\sigma_E \sim {
m meV}$$
 for  $m_{
m DM} \sim {
m keV}$  !

## **Kinematics**

Target w/ velocity:

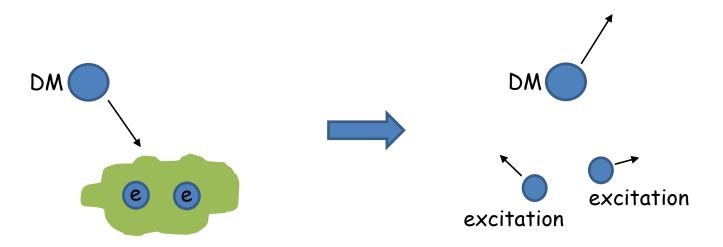
$$E_D \sim \left(\frac{\vec{q}^2}{2m_T} + \vec{q} \cdot \vec{v}_T\right) + \delta$$

Fermi-degenerate materials have velocity!

Focus on superconductor targets.

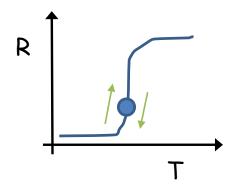
- Ground state of superconductor = Cooper pairs; Binding energy (gap)  $\Delta \lesssim \text{mili-eV}$
- The idea:

DM scatters with Cooper pairs, deposits enough energy, breaks Cooper pairs, creating excitations  $\rightarrow$  detect



- For energies exceeding the gap, scatter with free electrons in a Fermi-degenerate sea ("coherence factor" → 1)
- Ram an electron, create excitations which random walk until collected by e.g. a Transition Edge Sensor (TES)

Heat calorimeter



TESs used to detect microwaves and x-rays in astro applications (e.g. ACT, SPT, SuperCDMS)

Current status?

Not there yet

TES	$T_c [mK]$	Volume $[\mu m \times \mu m \times nm]$	Power Noise $[W/\sqrt{Hz}]$	$\sigma_E^{ m now}$ [me	$[\sigma_E^{\text{scale}} \text{ [meV]}]$
W [3]	125	$25 \times 25 \times 35$	$2.72 \times 10^{-18}$	120	1.1
Ti [5]	50	$6 \times 0.4 \times 56$	$2.97 \times 10^{-20}$	47	22
MoCu [6]	110.6	$100\times100\times200$	$4.2 \times 10^{-19}$	295.4	0.3

- Need to beat noise
- Energy resolution  $\sigma_E \propto \sqrt{T^3 V}$



Reduce temperature and volume for O(meV) resolution

(See talk by Matt Pyle tomorrow)

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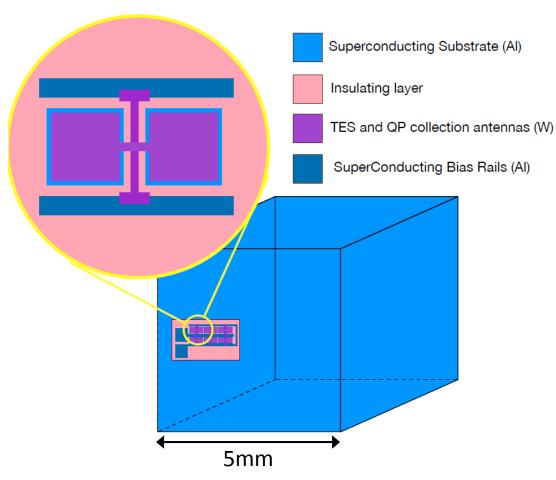
Reduce temperature and volume for O(meV) resolution

(Volume:  $25 \mu {
m m} \times 6 \mu {
m m} \times 35 {
m nm}$  , Operating temp':  $T_c \sim 10 {
m mK}$  )

#### Basic device idea:

Large exposure but high energy resolution = excitation concentration (E.g. SuperCDMS)

Absorber →
Collection fins →
TES



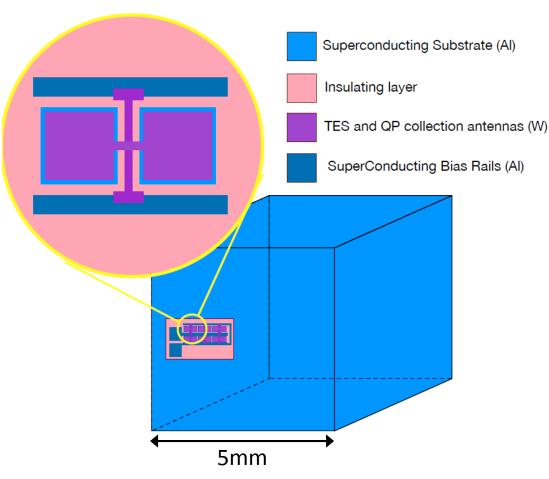
#### Basic device idea:

Large exposure but high energy resolution = excitation concentration

#### To be efficient:

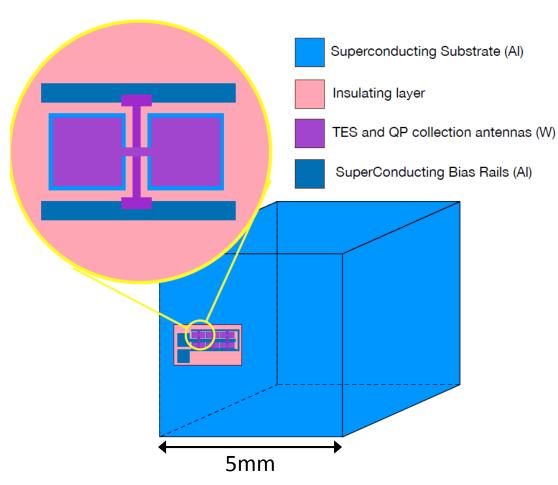
absorber size of order elastic scattering length

long-lived excitations travel ballistically



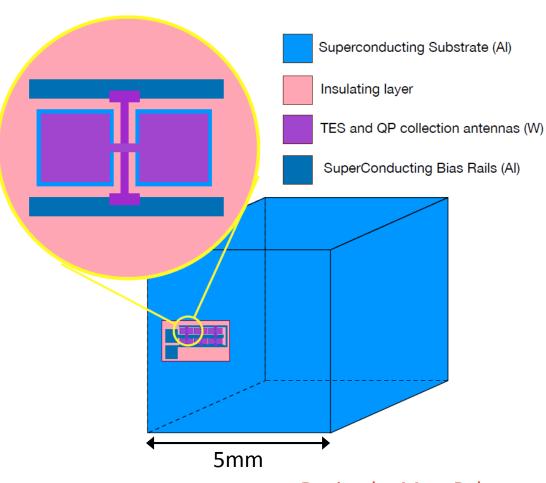
 Excitation lifetime of order a milisecond

• With velocity  $10^{-2}c$ , plenty of time to random walk and get absorbed before recombine



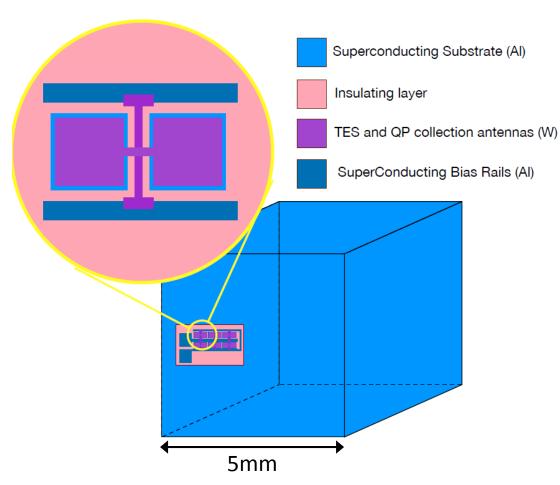
#### **Comments:**

- Low energy deposits: gapless absorber such as a metal
- But better -- metal in superconducting phase:
  - gap controls the thermal noise
  - makes excitations long lived → easier to collect



#### **Comments:**

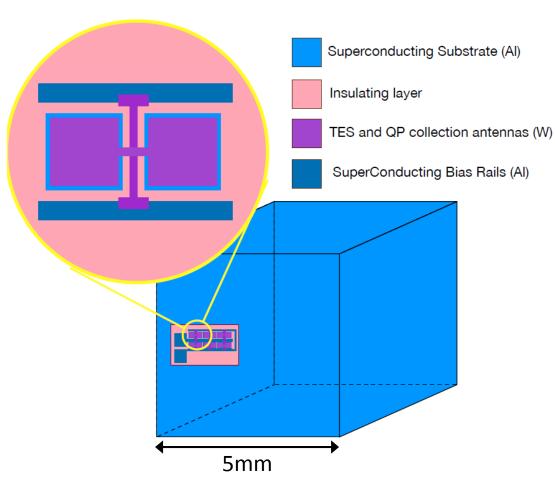
 Design for collection of either



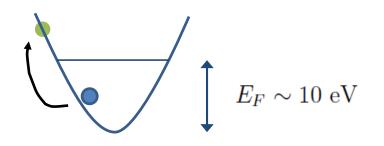
		Quasiparticle Detector	Athermal Phonon Detector
	Number of Detectors	750	750
		Aluminum Absorber	Tantalum Absorber
	Absorber Volume	$5 \times 5 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3$	$5 \times 5 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3$
	Excitation Scattering Length	> 5 mm (> 2 mm [32])	> 5 mm
	Excitation Lifetime	20 ms (> 2 ms [33])	1.2 ms
			(1250 surface bounces)
$f_{\rm cascade}$	Fraction of Recoil Energy in	$\sim 60\%$	$\sim 95\%$
	Excitation System		(all QP have recombined [33])
	Characteristic Group Velocity	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-3}$	$10^{-5}$
		Tungsten QP Collector	Aluminum Phonon Collector
$A_{\mathrm{collect}}$	Total Area of All Collection	$12 \times 225 \ \mu \text{m}^2$	$2 \times 0.21 \text{mm}^2$
	Fins on a Detector		
$h_{ m collect}$	Thickness of Collection Fins	$\sim$ 150 nm	$\sim 900 \ \mathrm{nm}$
$f_{\text{trap}}$	Excitation Trapping Fraction	0.1	0.5 [51]
$ au_{ m collect}$	Excitation Collection Time	3 ms	700 μs
$f_{ m collect}$	Excitation Collection Efficiency	87%	63%
$f_{\rm ERemain}$	Fraction of Potential Energy	$\sim 0.90$	$0.60 \times 0.65$
	Remaining After Collection		
		Tungsten TES	Tungsten TES
	Number of TES per detector	6	2
$V_{\rm TES}$	Total Volume of all TES	$6 \times 1 \mu \text{m} \times 20 \mu \text{m} \times 35 \text{nm}$	$2 \times 1 \mu \text{m} \times 20 \mu \text{m} \times 35 \text{nm}$
	on a detector		
$T_c$	Transition Temperature	9 mK	9 mK
$C_{\mathrm{TES}}$	Heat Capacity	$1.0 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J/K}$	$4.0 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J/K}$
$\alpha$	Dimensionless Sensitivity	30	30
	Bias Power	$7.0 \times 10^{-20} \text{ W}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-20} \text{ W}$
$\sqrt{S_{\text{p,tot}}(0)}$	Total Power Noise	$4.4 \times 10^{-22} \text{ W}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-22} \text{ W}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
$ au_{ m eff}$	Sensor Fall-Time	10 ms	10 ms
	Collector to TES Efficiency	1	0.74
$\sigma_{\rm ETES}$	TES Energy Resolution	0.3  meV	0.2  meV
$\sigma_{\mathrm{ED}}$	Detector Recoil Resolution	$0.6 \; \mathrm{meV}$	0.7  meV
	$=\sigma_{\text{E TES}}/(f_{\text{E Remain}}f_{\text{collect}}f_{\text{cascade}})$		
	Energy Threshold (6 $\sigma_{ED}$ )	$3.9 \; \mathrm{meV}$	4.2 meV

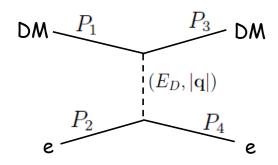
#### **Comments:**

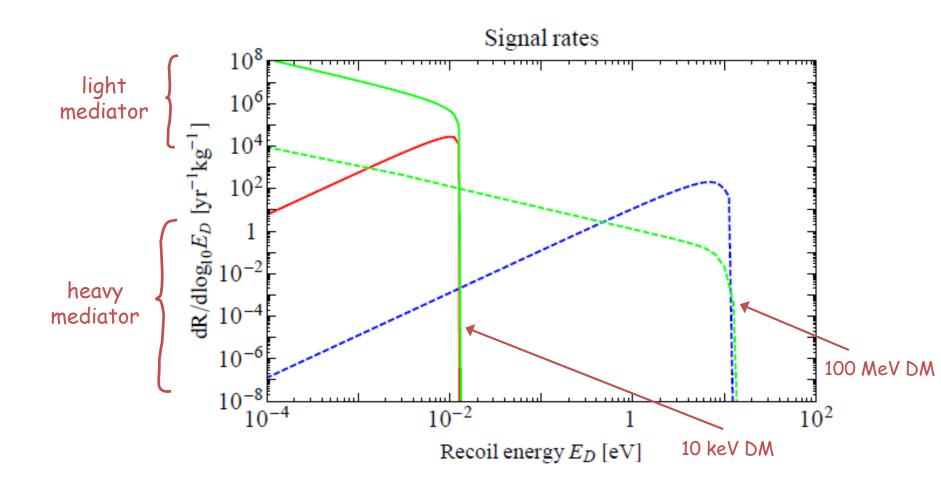
- Design for collection of either
- Proof of concept

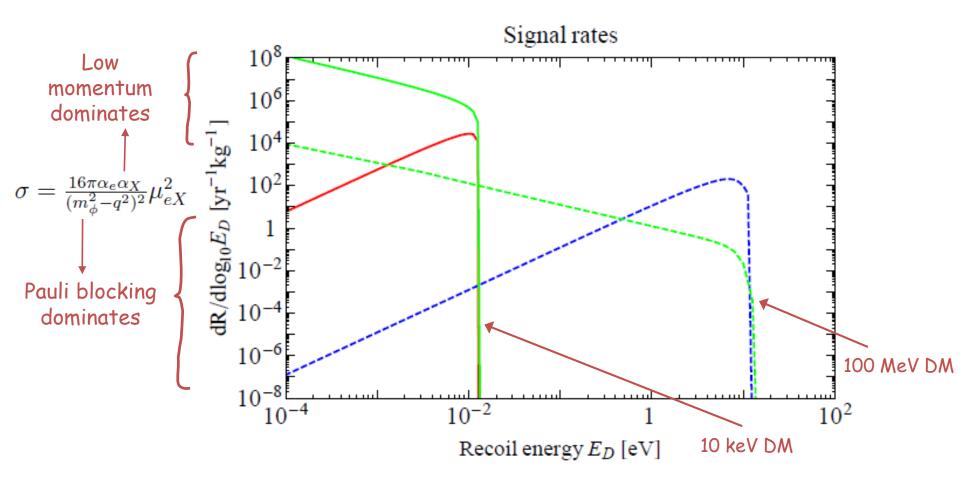


Scatter off electrons in Fermi-degenerate metal – Pauli blocking



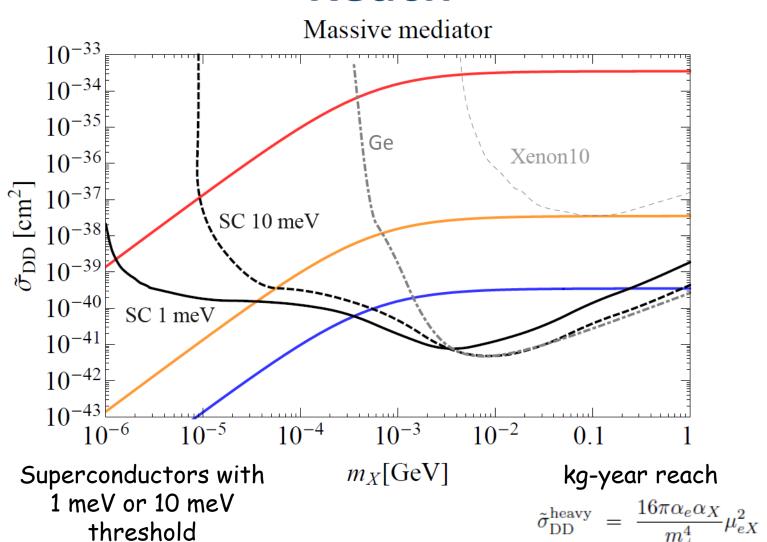




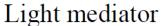


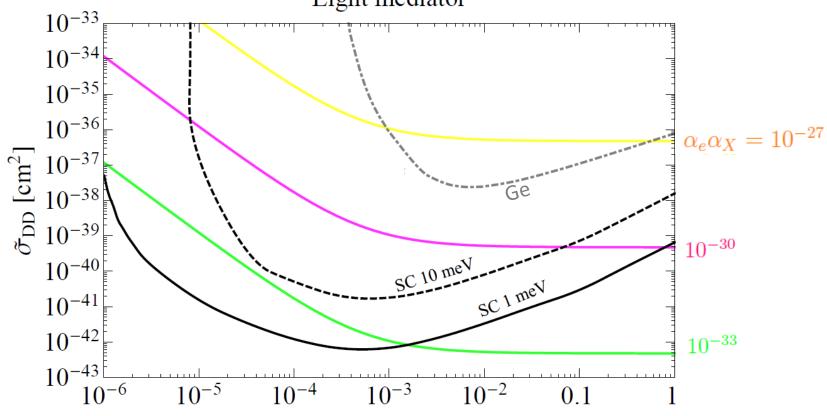
# **Results**

## Reach



#### Reach





Superconductors with 1 meV or 10 meV threshold  $m_X[\text{GeV}]$ 

kg-year reach

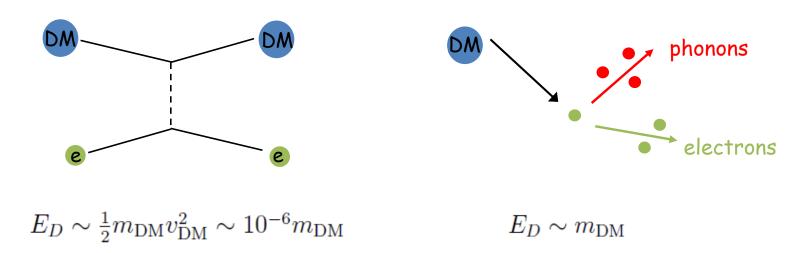
$$\tilde{\sigma}_{\mathrm{DD}}^{\mathrm{light}} = \frac{16\pi\alpha_{e}\alpha_{X}}{q_{\mathrm{ref}}^{4}}\mu_{eX}^{2}$$

$$q_{\mathrm{ref}} \equiv \mu_{eX}v_{X}$$

YH @ sub-eV, Dec. 2016

### **Absorption vs. Scattering**

Not only DM scattering – sensitive to DM absorption too (Any target!)

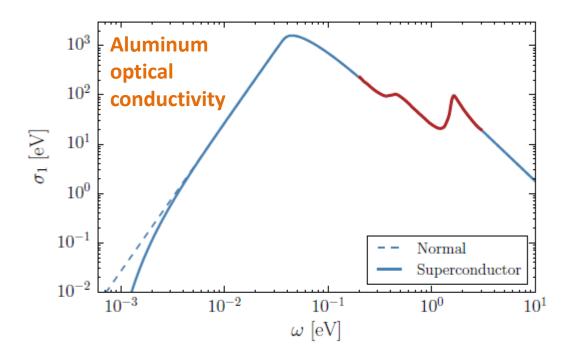


Absorption sensitive to much lighter DM masses

(see talk by Tongyan Lin on Friday)

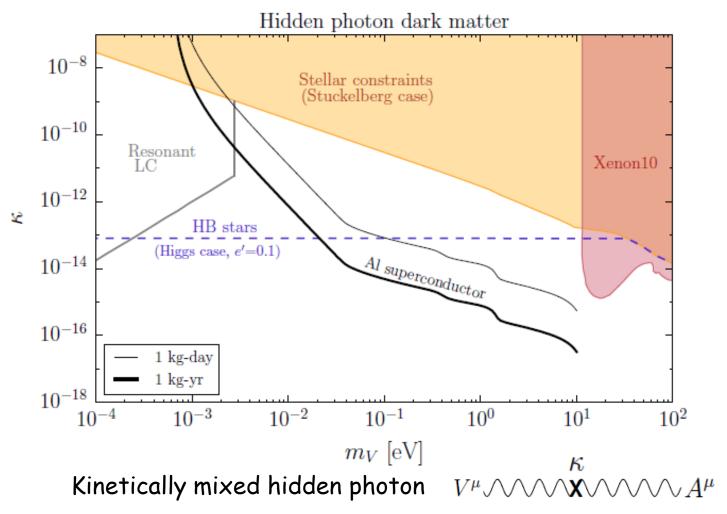
# **Absorption**

Relate to optical properties of a given material



[YH, Lin and Zurek, PRD 2016]

# **Absorption**



[YH, Lin and Zurek, PRD 2016]

YH @ sub-eV, Dec. 2016

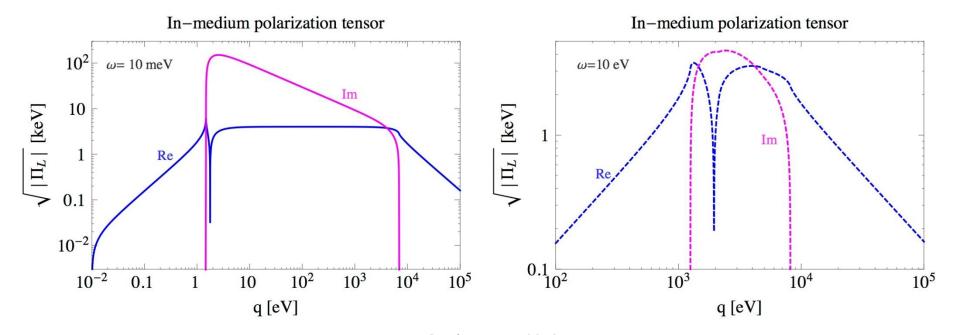
Superconductors are super awesome.

#### Downside?

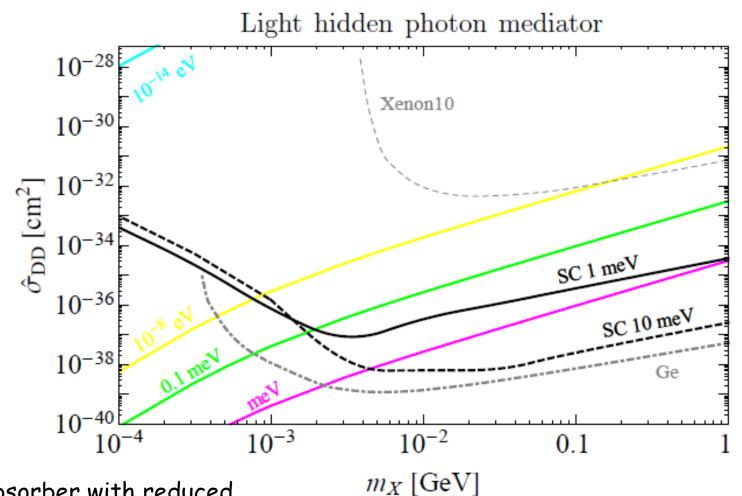
### Metals are shiny

In-medium effects are substantial – photon picks up mass. If kinetically-mixed hidden photon mediator:

$$\langle |\mathcal{M}|^2 \rangle \simeq \frac{16 m_e^2 m_\chi^2 g_\chi^2 e^2 \epsilon^2}{\left(q^2 - m_{A'}^2\right)^2 \left(1 - \Pi_L/|\mathbf{q}|^2\right)^2} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{In-medium} \\ \text{polarization tensor} \end{array}$$



### Kinetically mixed hidden photon

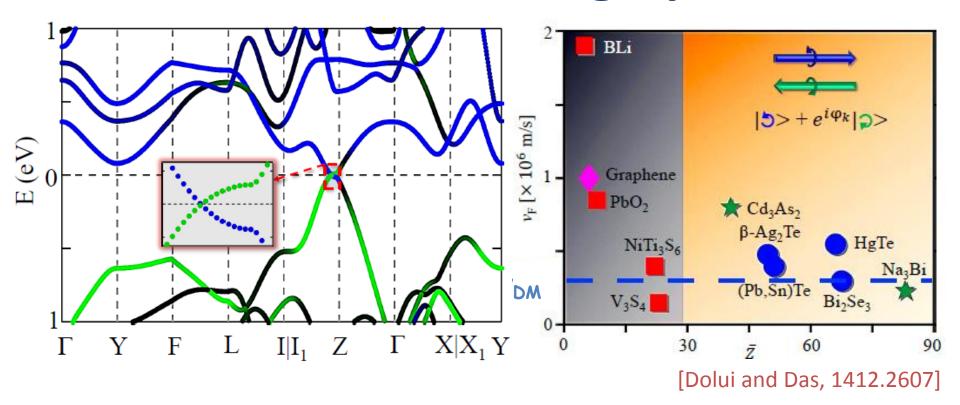


Absorber with reduced optical response would be better

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\mathrm{DD}}^{\mathrm{light/heavy}} \equiv \tilde{\sigma}_{\mathrm{DD}}^{\mathrm{light/heavy}} \times \left(\frac{q_{\mathrm{ref}}}{\mathrm{keV}}\right)^4$$

YH @ sub-eV, Dec. 2016

### Semimetals = ~ 3D graphene



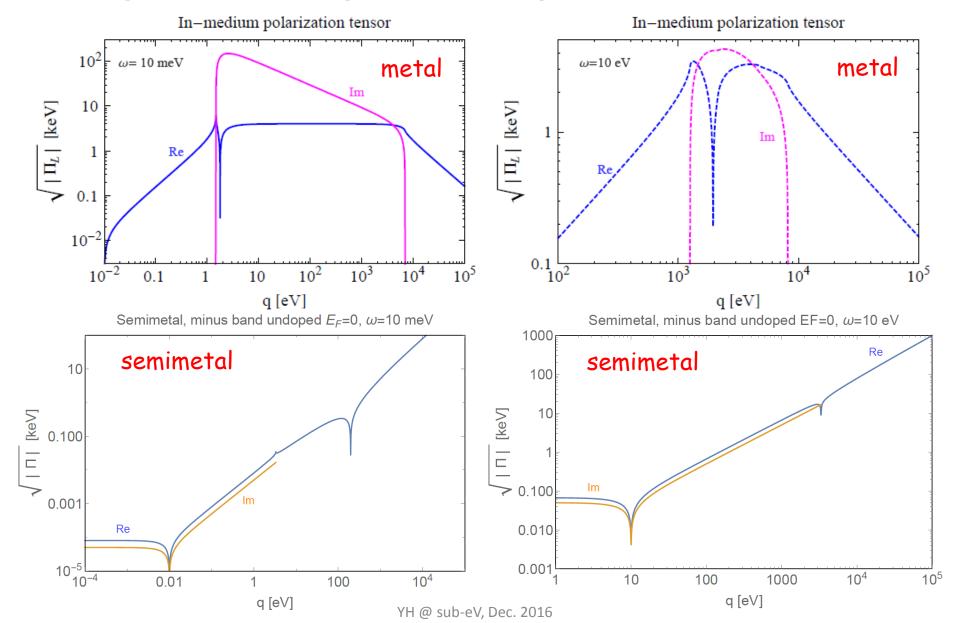
#### Topological properties

Semimetals for light DM -- works in progress:

YH, Kahn, Lisanti, Neaton, Zurek....; Grushin, YH, Ilan, Zurek

YH @ sub-eV, Dec. 2016

# Optical response ('photon mass')

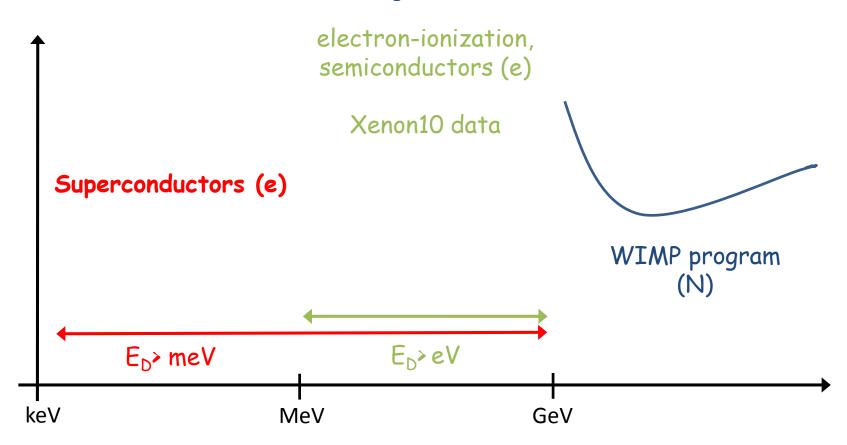


### Summary

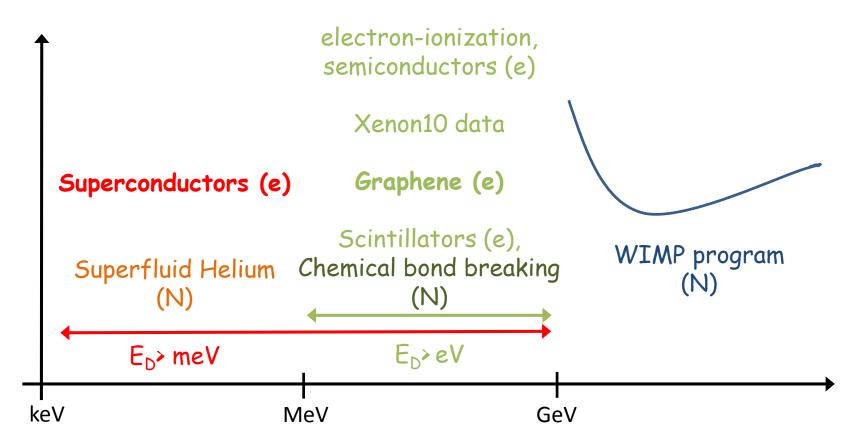
- Proposed new class of detectors using superconductors
- Sensitive to O(meV) energy deposits 

   keV dark matter via scattering
   meV dark matter via absorption
- R&D to lower noise such that O(meV) energies are detectable. (Port over everything being done now for semiconductors.)

#### **Prospects**

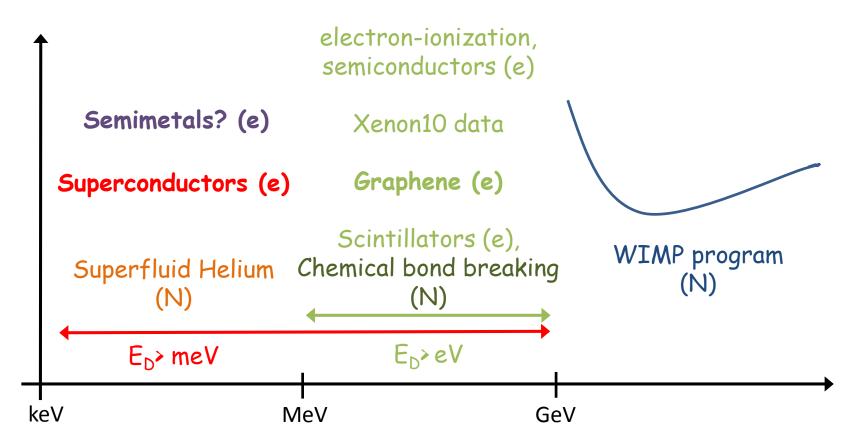


#### **Prospects**



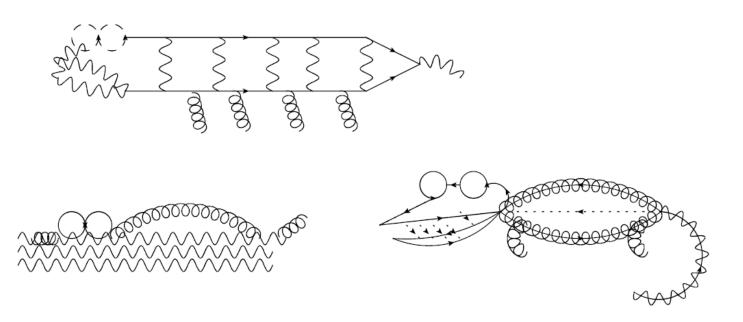
[YH, Zhao, Zurek 2015; YH, Zhao, Pyle, Zurek 2015; Schutz, Zurek 2014; YH, Kahn, Lisanti, Tully, Zurek 2016; Derenzo et al 2016; Essig et al 2016]

#### **Prospects**



[YH, Khan, Lisanti, Neaton, Zurek...; Grushin, YH, Ilan, Zurek; works in progress]

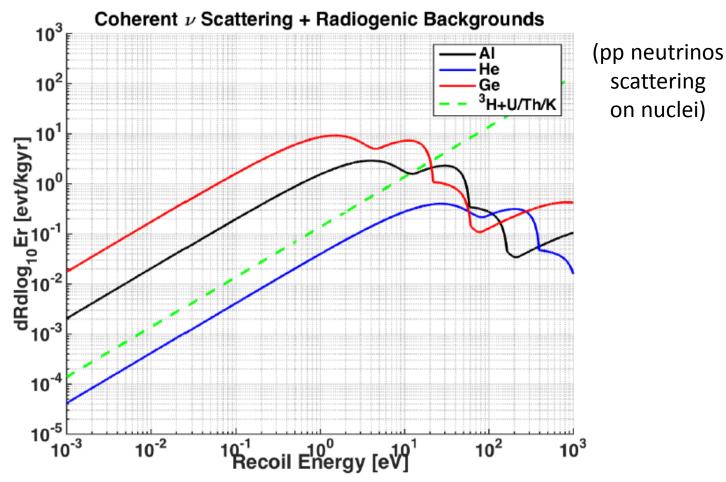
#### Thanks!



# **Backup**

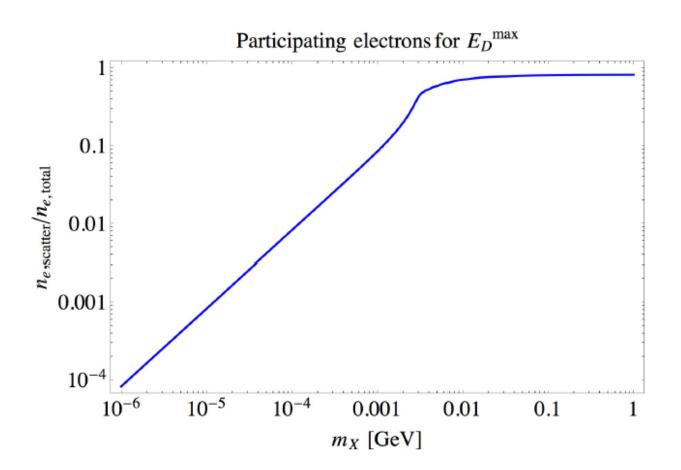
		Quasiparticle Detector	Athermal Phonon Detector
	Number of Detectors	750	750
		Aluminum Absorber	Tantalum Absorber
	Volume	$5 \times 5 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3$	$5 \times 5 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3$
	Excitation Scattering Length	> 5 mm (> 2 mm [31])	> 5 mm
	Excitation Lifetime	10  ms  (> 2  ms  [32])	1.2 ms
			(1250 surface bounces)
	Fraction of Recoil Energy	$\sim 60\%$	$\sim 95\%$
	in Excitation System		(all QP have recombined [32])
	Characteristic Group Velocity	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-3}$	$10^{-5}$
		Tungsten QP Collector	Aluminum Phonon Collector
	Number of Collection Fins	$6 \times 2$	$2 \times 4$
$A_{\mathrm{collect}}$	Total Area of All Collection Fins	$12 \times 400 \ \mu \text{m}^2$	$2 \times 0.21 \text{mm}^2$
$h_{ m collect}$	Thickness of Collection Fins	$\sim$ 150 nm	$\sim 900 \text{ nm}$
$f_{ m trap}$	Excitation Trapping Fraction	0.1	0.5 [50]
$ au_{ m collect}$	Excitation Collection Time	3.4 ms	$700 \mu s$
$f_{ m collect}$	Excitation Collection Efficiency	0.75	0.63
	Fraction of Energy	$\sim 0.90$	0.60
	Remaining After Collection		
		Tungsten TES	Tungsten TES
	Number of TES	6	1
$V_{\mathrm{TES}}$	Total Volume of TES	$6 \times 1 \mu \text{m} \times 24 \mu \text{m} \times 35 \text{nm}$	$2\times1\mu\mathrm{m}\times24\mu\mathrm{m}\times35\mathrm{nm}$
$T_c$	Transition Temperature	9 mK	9 mK
$C_{\mathrm{TES}}$	Heat Capacity	$1.2 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J/K}$	$4.0 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J/K}$
$\alpha$	Dimensionless Sensitivity	20	20
	Bias Power	$8.3 \times 10^{-20} \text{ W}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-20} \text{ W}$
$\sqrt{S_{ m p,tot}(0)}$	Total Power Noise	$4.9 \times 10^{-22} \text{ W}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-22} \text{ W}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
$ au_{ ext{eff}}$	Sensor Fall-Time	10 ms	10 ms
	Collector to TES Efficiency	1	0.74
$\sigma_{ m E,TES}$	TES Energy Resolution	$0.4~\mathrm{meV}$	0.2  meV
$\sigma_{ m E,D}$	Detector Recoil Resolution	$0.9~\mathrm{meV}$	0.8 meV

### Backgrounds



1meV – 1eV: less than 1 event/kg-yr 10meV-10eV: 3 events/kg-yr

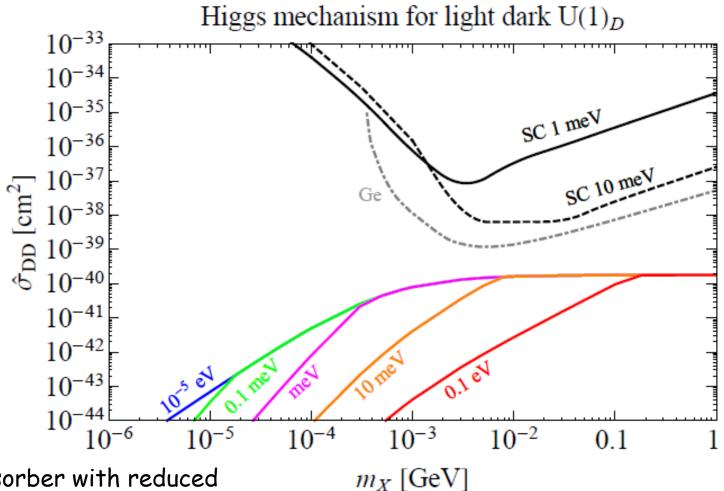
# Pauli Blocking



#### **Constraints**

- Self-interactions of dark matter
- Stellar emission of light particles
- Kinetic decoupling @ recombination
- N<sub>eff</sub>
- Terrestrial: beam dump, (g-2), low energy machines,
   ....

#### Kinetically mixed hidden photon



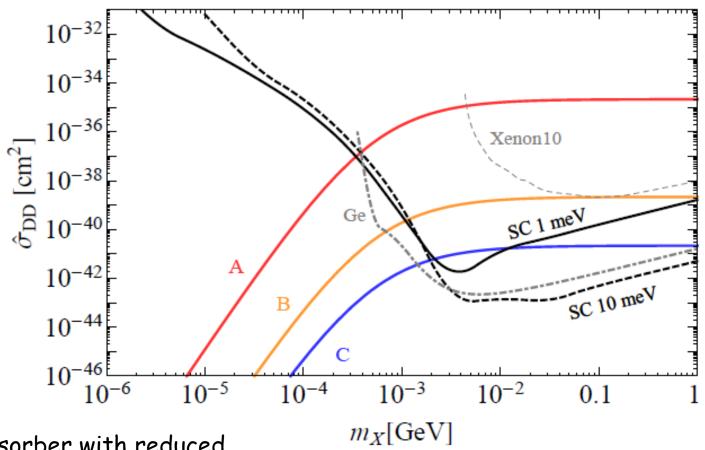
Absorber with reduced optical response would be better

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\mathrm{DD}}^{\mathrm{light/heavy}} \equiv \tilde{\sigma}_{\mathrm{DD}}^{\mathrm{light/heavy}} \times \left(\frac{q_{\mathrm{ref}}}{\mathrm{keV}}\right)^{4}$$

YH @ sub-eV, Dec. 2016

### Kinetically mixed hidden photon

Massive kinetically mixed  $U(1)_D$ 

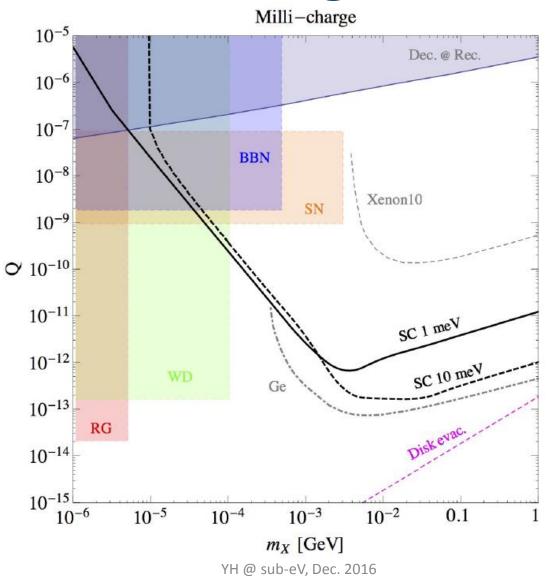


Absorber with reduced optical response would be better

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YH @ sub-eV, Dec. 2016

# Milli-charged DM



#### **Concentration & Collection**

# bounces until collected = 
$$\frac{A_{\text{absorber}}}{A_{\text{collect}}} \frac{1}{f_{\text{trap}}}$$

$$\tau_{\text{collect}} = \frac{4V_{\text{absorber}}}{\langle |v| \rangle A_{\text{collect}}} \frac{1}{f_{\text{trap}}}$$

excitation collection efficiency = 
$$f_{
m collect} = rac{ au_{
m life}}{ au_{
m life} + au_{
m collect}}$$

$$n_e = \frac{(E_F m_e)^{3/2}}{3\pi^2}$$

$$\xi_0 = v_F/(\pi\Delta)$$

macroscopic correlation length, ~micron

#### **Some Constraints**

Self-interactions:

$$\frac{\sigma_T}{m_X} \lesssim 1 - 10 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$$

$$\sigma_T^{\text{light}} \approx \frac{16\pi \ \alpha_X^2}{v^4 m_X^2} \ln \beta^{-1} \,, \quad \beta = \frac{2m_\phi \alpha_X}{m_X v^2} \ll 1$$

$$(\alpha_X)_{\text{SIDM}}^{\text{light}} \lesssim 4 \times 10^{-17} \left(\frac{m_X}{\text{keV}}\right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{v}{10^{-4}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{58}{\ln \beta^{-1}}\right)^{1/2}, \quad \beta = \frac{2m_\phi \alpha_X}{m_X v^2}$$

Decoupling @ recombination:

$$\Gamma_p = \sum_{b=e,p} \frac{8\sqrt{2\pi}n_b\alpha_X\alpha_b\mu_{bX}^{1/2}}{3m_XT^{3/2}} \ln\left[\frac{3T\lambda_{\rm cut}}{\sqrt{\alpha_b\alpha_X}}\right] \bigg|_{T=\hat{T}} \lesssim H|_{T=\hat{T}}$$

$$(\alpha_X\alpha_e)_{\rm kin.\ dec.}^{\rm light} \lesssim 10^{-19} \left(\frac{m_X/\sum_{b=e,p}\sqrt{\mu_{bX}}}{\rm keV}^{1/2}\right) \left(\frac{50}{\rm ln}\right)$$

#### **Some Constraints**

Stellar:  $g_e^{\rm brem} \lesssim 1.3 \times 10^{-14}$  [HB]

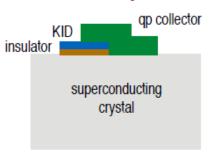
(trapping in supernova releases  $g_e \gtrsim 10^{-6}$ )

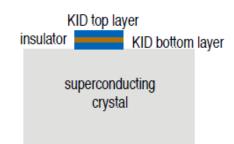
Kinetically mixed hidden photon  $10^{-5}~{
m eV} \lesssim m_\phi \lesssim {
m eV}$ 

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Higgstrahlung}: & \epsilon \; \left(\frac{q_{H_D}g_X}{0.1}\right) \lesssim 8 \times 10^{-14} \quad [\mbox{HB}] \,, \\ \\ \mbox{Resonance conversion}: & \epsilon \; \left(\frac{m_{A'}}{\mbox{eV}}\right) \lesssim 4 \times 10^{-12} \quad [\mbox{Sun}] \,, \end{array}$ 

#### What About Direct Quasiparticle Creation?

Long scattering length superconducting crystal: qp's diffuse





#### Architectures:

KID on insulator, qps collected via thick superconducting film

Technically straightforward to imagine a design:

Avoids having to deal with operating KID on superconductor

Requires good trapping: qps from crystal into collector film, from collector film into KID

Problem: fast trapping require large  $\Delta$  ratio; large  $\Delta$  ratio  $\rightarrow$  lots of energy lost to phonon emission

Maybe still ok if just interesting in counting substrate qps (still can get meV threshold)

#### KID on crystal

Need to avoid short-circuiting KID: microstrip structure?

Film needs to be thick to avoid being proximitized by crystal ( $\Delta_{KID}$  pulled to  $\Delta_{crystal}$ )

No obvious advantage over phonon mediation for NR detection

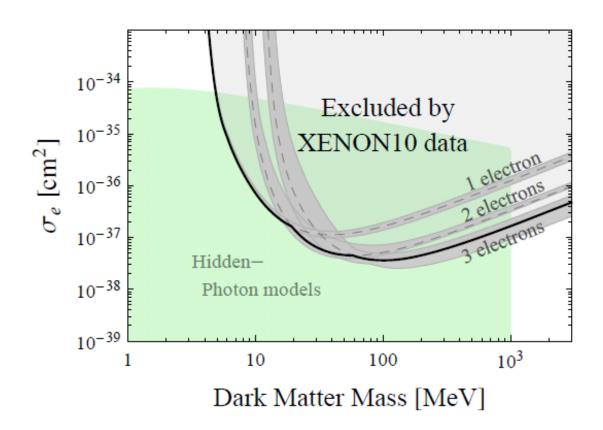
Phonons already provide sensitivity to meV scale

KIDs are already pair-breaking detectors: insensitive to sub-gap phonons in principle

But definitely interesting for electron scattering

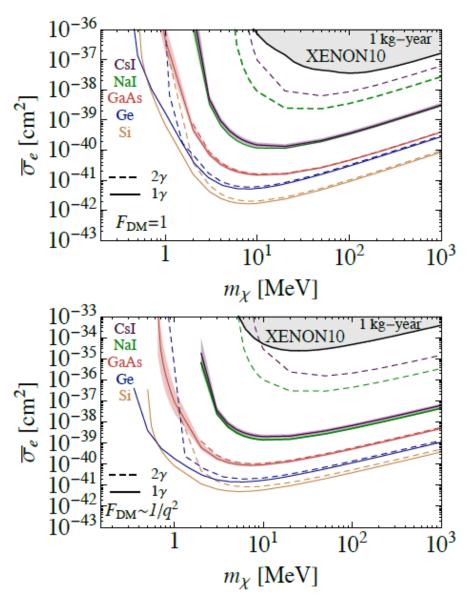
#### Xenon10 data

Sub-GeV dark matter -- look for electron ionization signals



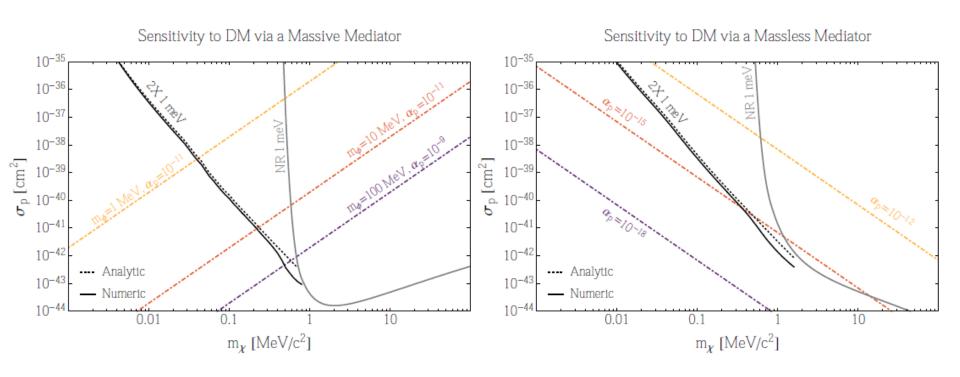
[Essig, Manalaysay, Mardon, Sorensen, Volansky, PRL 109, 021301 (2012)]

#### **Scintillators**



[Derenzo et al, 1607.01009]

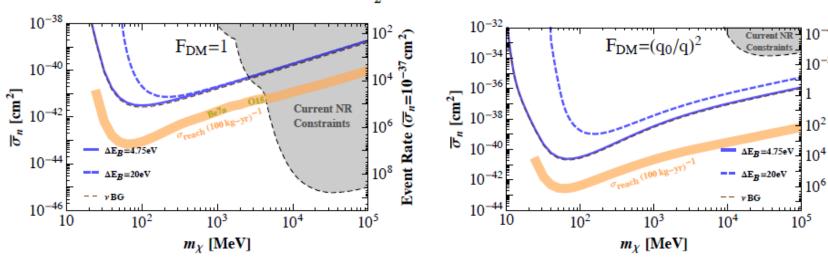
## Superfluid Helium



[Schutz and Zurek, 1604.08206]

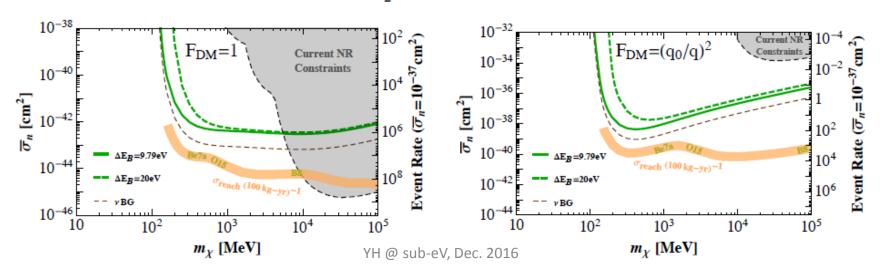
# **Chemical Bond Breaking**

H<sub>2</sub>-like Molecule

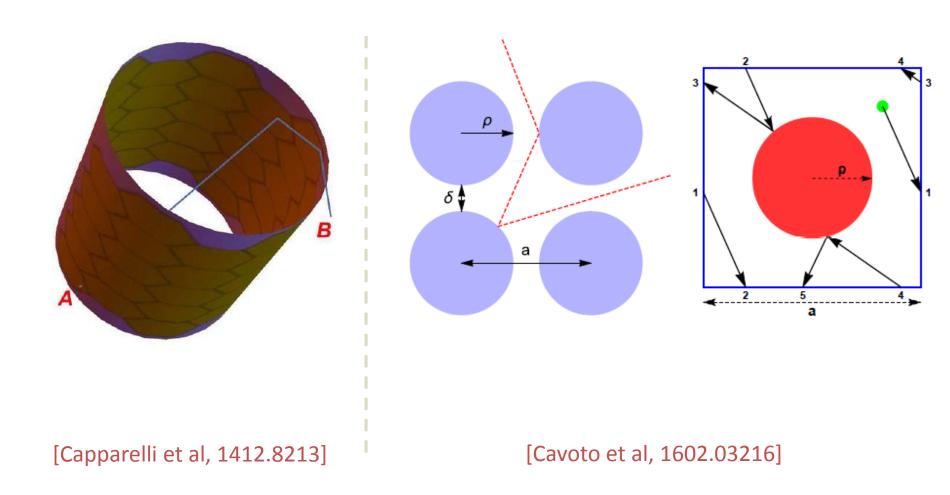


Event Rate  $(\overline{\sigma}_n = 10^{-37} \text{cm}^2)$ 

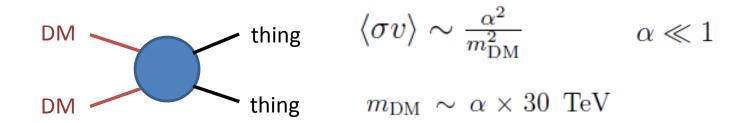
N<sub>2</sub>-like Molecule



#### **Carbon Nanotubes for WIMPs**



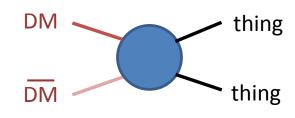
#### Weakly coupled 2→2:



[Pospelov, Ritz, Voloshin 2007; Feng, Kumar 2008]

#### Asymmetric dark matter:

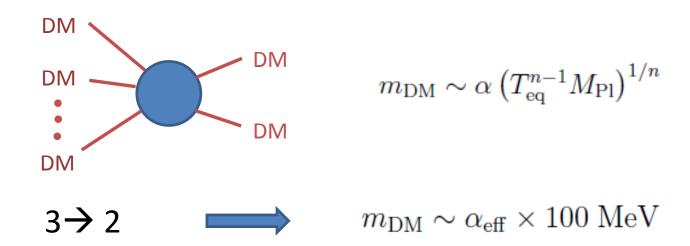




$$m_{\rm DM} \sim 5 \ {\rm GeV} \left( \frac{n_B - n_{\overline{B}}}{n_{\rm DM} - n_{\overline{\rm DM}}} \right)$$

[Kaplan, Luty, Zurek, 2009]

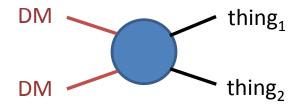
**SIMPs:**  $n \rightarrow 2$  self-annihilations



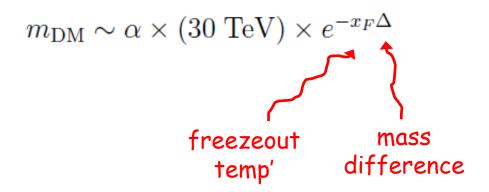
[Carlson, Hall, Machacek, 1992; YH, Kuflik, Volansky, Wacker, 2014; YH, Kuflik, Murayama, Volansky, Wacker, 2015]

See also elastically decoupling dark matter (ELDERs) [Kuflik, Perelstein, Rey-Le Lorier, Tsai, 2015]

#### Forbidden channels:



$$2m_{\rm DM} < m_{\rm thing_1} + m_{\rm thing_2}$$



[Griest, Seckel, 1991; D'Agnolo, Ruderman, 2015]